

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified Application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 10-20 are pending in the Application, claims 8 and 9 having been canceled herein.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-8 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Makishima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,639,329). The Examiner also rejected claims 1-4 and 6-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Makishima et al. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-8 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gillberg-LaForce et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,913,845). The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Hamblen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,143,659). The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 7-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hamblen et al. The Examiner rejected claims 1-13 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Arakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,476,098). The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Koyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,590,722). The Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Koyama et al. The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Arakawa et al. alone, or in view of Koyama et al. or Yoshimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,534,589) or Imanishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,124,964). Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections involving claims 8 and 9, and claims dependent therefrom for at least the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features previously recited in claims 8 and 9, and canceled claims 8 and 9. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in the Application are now allowable for at least the following reasons.

Makishima (U.S. Patent No. 4,639,329) discloses various components at column 1, lines 13-21. However, it does not disclose “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface,” as now recited in claim 1. Further, Makishima

neither discloses nor suggests using an organic-inorganic composite amorphous material for “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface.”

Gillberg-LaForce et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,913,845) discloses at column 2, line 30 to column 3, line 11 a method of producing a nonlinear optical medium, transparent solid medium, transparent thin film, optical light switch or light modulator device. However, it does not disclose “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface,” as now recited in claim 1. Further, Gillberg-LaForce et al. neither discloses nor suggests using organic-inorganic composites for “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface.”

Hamblen (U.S. Patent No. 5,143,659) discloses at column 1, lines 37-39 that microlenses are produced from an organic/inorganic composite substance. However, it does not disclose “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface,” as now recited in claim 1. Further, Hamblen neither discloses nor suggests using an organic/inorganic composite substance for “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface.”

Arakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,476,098) disclose at column 13, lines 6-12 that an organic-inorganic composite material can be used for an optical element. However, the reference does not disclose a specific arrangement of such an optical element. In other words, Arakawa et al. do not disclose “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface,” as now recited in claim 1. Further, Arakawa et al. neither discloses nor suggests using an organic-inorganic composite material for “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface.”

Koyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,590,722) discloses at column 3, lines 12-14 a prism or a beam splitter obtained by combining an organic component and an inorganic component into a composite. However, it does not disclose a specific arrangement of such a prism or beam splitter. In other words, Koyama does not disclose “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface”. Further, Koyama neither discloses nor suggests using an organic component and an inorganic component combined into a composite for “an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface.”

Neither Yoshimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,534,589) nor Imanishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,124,964) disclose "an optical element having at least two transmitting surfaces and at least one reflecting surface, as now recited in claim 1."

Since claim 1 now contains the limitations of original claim 9, Applicants have traversed that rejection and believe it is patentable for at least the reasons noted above. Consequently, Applicants believe that the original claim 9 was patentable as it stood without any narrowing amendment. Applicants thus respectfully submit that claims 1-7 and 10-20 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons specified above in regard to claim 1.

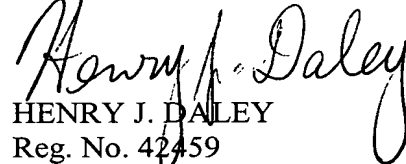
All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this Application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' representative at the below-noted number if it may help advance the prosecution of this case.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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